

## A Letter of Welcome to the Citizens of Kaysville City

Forecasters have predicted the death of the public library for many years, and have been wrong every time. In fact, public libraries are experiencing a Renaissance and demand for public library service is high. A rediscovered passion for reading; a thirst for non-print materials such as books on tape, books on CD, DVD's and videocassettes; and, an increasing reliance on the Internet are all fueling the public's insistence for more and more access to library services and resources. Rather than slipping into the dustbin of history, public libraries and the communities they serve have to face this daunting question: How can we fully enjoy the benefits of the public libraries? This is a difficult question to answer given the cost of some books and non-print materials—the book-on-CD version of the newest Harry Potter book has a list price of \$75.00 per set, and other books on CD cost as much as \$120.00—as well as information in electronic and digital formats.

Recently, in a very difficult and emotional decision, the Kaysville City Council voted to approve a merger of the Kaysville City Library into the Davis County Library system. In essence, the City Council made a decision that the best way for the citizens of Kaysville to take advantage of and participate in the Renaissance of the public library and the explosion of information is to join the other communities in Davis County in pooling tax dollars and resources to share the costs and the benefits of developing library services. As a result of this decision:

**1. Immediately**, Kaysville residents may sign up for library cards with the Davis County Library at no charge. All family members may have cards. There will be limits on the number of books that can be checked out per card, but those limits will continue to expand, moving toward 35 items per card, over the next several months. **Immediately**, the number of items Kaysville residents will have access to will rise from 53,000 in the Kaysville Library to include 520,000 in all branches of the Davis County Library for a total of nearly 575,000 items. With the opening of the branch library in Centerville in Spring 2006, and the on-going growth in the collections of the other branch libraries, the Davis County Library's collections will approach or exceed 650,000 items by the end of 2006, and that number will continue to rise.

Once the merger is achieved, Kaysville residents will be able to access these items either by having them brought to the Kaysville Branch Library by the daily-delivery service operated by the County Library or by visiting any of the other six Davis County branch libraries. This expanded access will cost Kaysville residents approximately the same amount--\$36.00 per year on a home valued at \$150,000—as they pay now for the Kaysville City Library.



2. In the budget adopted recently for the Kaysville City Library, \$25,000 is allocated for the purchase of materials over the next year. This money will be supplemented by money from the Blood Trust Fund. In the projected first-year budget for the Kaysville Branch Library as part of the DCL, the allocation for materials is projected to be \$60,000—double the original amount and equal to the amount being projected for the new Syracuse/Northwest Branch library. This amount may also be supplemented by grants from the Blood Trust Fund based on terms discussed during the merger negotiations.

Overall, with Kaysville as a member of the Davis County Library, the total amount to be spent on materials for the system in 2006 is projected to exceed \$850,000. Every item purchased with this money will be available to residents of Kaysville either through the delivery system noted above or by visiting other branches. No city in the county, acting independently, could ever expend any amount approaching this on materials for its citizens.

3. **Immediately**, the Davis County Library will request that the Weber County Library include Kaysville residents in the cooperative-borrowing agreement between the two county library systems. This means that Kaysville residents who work in or travel to areas of Weber County will be able to obtain a card at no cost and check out materials from Weber County's Main Library and three branch libraries. This potentially makes more than 400,000 additional items available for use to those Kaysville City residents who might find this access convenient in their daily lives

4. The Davis County Library will invest \$75,000 - \$100,000 to remodel the interior of the Kaysville Branch Library. The branch will close on July 1, 2006—the first day of the merger—and will reopen four to six weeks later. When it does reopen, there will be approximately 400 – 600 square feet of additional space for public library service and collections gained by capturing space not currently in use. The LeConte Stewart Gallery that is in the library will remain intact and under the control of Kaysville City.

5. By mid-September of this year, we will deliver to the Davis County Library Board of Directors and the Davis County Commission a capital facilities plan that will include along with other projects a new branch library in Kaysville—both a proposed size and a proposed year for construction. This will only be a proposal; much work will have to be done with the Board and the Commission to arrive at a final plan and a method of funding. With the completion of the Centerville Branch in Spring 2006, we will conclude a five-year capital plan in which every project was completed on time (with the exception of the Centerville Branch which we delayed for six months so that we could build it larger than initially projected) and within budget. We would expect to meet the schedule established in a new plan in the same on-time-within-budget manner

This is the vision that the Davis County Library has for the development of the system and of the Kaysville Branch Library as part of that system. Very few communities are ever given the opportunity to so dramatically expand the number of library resources and services available to their citizens, and to expand them so quickly—almost literally overnight—and with no library tax increase

Kaysville citizens are duly proud of the city library they have supported for the better part of a century. However, we would suggest that they will have every reason to be as proud of the Kaysville Branch of the Davis County Library. There is no reason why a Kaysville Branch Library cannot sustain the “small town” atmosphere that is prized by residents of the city—every one of our branches has a different feel, a different character, as will the Kaysville Branch.

The agreement approved by the Kaysville City Council and the Davis County Commission indicates the need for cooperation in order to achieve the merger. We pledge to the citizens of Kaysville that we will do everything possible to make the merger succeed; but we also invite and welcome the participation of staff members of the Kaysville City Library and members of the Kaysville City Library Board of Directors to participate in planning for and carrying out the transition. We invite their participation—in designing the remodel, in the development and integration of the collection—not only in the spirit of the agreement but in the spirit of commitment to providing the best possible library service to the residents of Kaysville—a goal everyone shares.

We invite the residents of Kaysville City to take full advantage of the services of the resources of the Davis County Library, and over the next few months we will share information about additional service options that you will be able to access. However, there is much work to be done and little time to lose as we move, **together**, toward July 1, 2006.



Commissioner Carol R. Page, Chair  
Davis County Commission

Paul Rowland, Chair  
Davis County Library Board of Directors

Pete J. Giacoma, Director  
Davis County Library